

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 DLOS-07 IO-14 INT-08

CG-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /145 R

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APPROVED BY S/FW-COA - WILLIAM SULLIVAN
L/OES - MR. BETTAUER
EUR/IB - MR. LUKENS

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O R 261540Z JUL 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, SP, US, XN

SUBJECT: ICNAF: SPANISH FISHERY OFF US COAST

CARACAS FOR LOS DEL, COPENHAGEN FOR FISHATT

FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS BEING MADE TODAY TO SPANISH EMB:

A. WE HAVE HAD ANOTHER NMFS GROUP (WOODS HOLE LAB) RUN AN
ESTIMATE OF THE SPANISH JANUARY-JUNE 1974 CATCH IN SA5 AND
SA6. ALTHOUGH METHOD SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, RESULTS REMARKABLY
SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS ESTIMATE. NEW ESTIMATE TOTAL APPROX
35,000 MT, SQUID APPROX 25,000 MT, COD APPROX 7,200 MT,
HADDOCK APPROX 1,200 MT. THUS OVERALL TOTAL AND SQUID TOTAL
ARE BOTH ABOUT DOUBLE 1974 QUOTAS, COD SOMEWHAT ABOVE
QUOTA, AND HADDOCK MUCH MORE THAN TEN PERCENT ALLOWED IN
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COD FISHERY.

B. SPANISH FISHING EFFORT MUCH GREATER SA5 AND SA6 IN 1974 THAN COMPARABLE PERIOD 1973 ALTHOUGH IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM 1974 QUOTAS THAT EFFORT WAS TO BE REDUCED. THIS WAS INTENT OF TWO-TIER QUOTA SYSTEM. SECOND TIER (OVERALL COUNTRY QUOTAS) PURPOSELY SET AT LESS THAN SUM OF INDIVIDUAL SPECIES QUOTAS TO REDUCE EFFORT AND CONCENTRATE IT ON MOST DESIRED QUOTAS TO MINIMIZE BY-CATCHES, AS OF

HADDOCK IN COD FISHERY. SPANISH CATCHES SA 5 AND SA 6 DURING ALL 1973 AMOUNTED TO 22,194 MT OVERALL, 14,929 MT SQUID, 5,980 MT COD, 386 MT HADDOCK, 799 MT POLLOCK. EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL SPANISH BY-CATCHES IN SQUID FISHERY REPORTED AT ALL. 1973 QUOTA SYSTEM APPLIED TO ONLY SELECTIVE SPECIES, SPANISH QUOTAS WERE 5,800 MT COD, 450 MT POLLOCK.

C. WE ARE VERY CONFIDENT IN THESE ESTIMATES. ONLY WAY THAT ACTUAL CATCH FIGURES COULD DIFFER IN A SUBSTANTIAL WAY IS IF SPANISH FISHERY HAS DIFFERED IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY FROM ITS PREVIOUS PATTERN, AND WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT OBSERVED ANY SUCH DIFFERENCES.

D. SPANISH FISHERY IS CONTINUING. TEN STERN TRAWLERS OPERATING AS PAIRS IN COD FISHERY ON GEORGES BANK. EIGHT TO TWELVE STERN TRAWLERS BELIEVED TO BE OPERATING IN SQUID FISHERY OFF MID-ATLANTIC (EIGHT WERE SEEN BY CG CUTTER THIS TIME LAST WEEK, THREE CONTACTED THIS WEEK WITH NO RPT NO SPECIAL EFFORT MADE TO DO SO, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO TWO). CAPT. OF JOSE CORINDE STATED TO CG JULY 25 COD FISHING POOR AND F/Vs WILL DEPART WITHIN THREE TO SEVEN DAYS UNLESS FISHING IMPROVES. CG REPORTS THAT CAPT OF PERCA (LOBSTER VIOLATION) DURING VISIT TO NEW YORK JULY 24 APPEARED TO HAVE LITTLE OR NO KNOWLEDGE OF ICNAF QUOTA SYSTEM.

E. THUS, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT SPANISH VESSELS HAVE EXCEEDED THEIR QUOTAS, THAT GOS TOOK AT BEST INADEQUATE STEPS TO CONTROL NUMBER OF F/Vs OR POLICE CATCH AND TERMINATE FISHERY WHEN QUOTAS REACHED. EACH NEW SET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF A NET BY SPANISH F/Vs IN SA 5 AND SA 6 CONSTITUTES A NEW AND PRESUMABLY PUNISHABLE VIOLATION OF THE REGULATIONS AND A NEW VIOLATION BY GOS OF ITS OBLIGATION UNDER ARTICLE XII OF ICNAF CONVENTION QTE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS MAY BE NECESSARY . . . TO IMPLEMENT UNQTE THE REGULATIONS.

F. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ARE EXTREMELY DISTURBED THAT

GOS HAS NOT RPT NOT RESPONDED MORE PROMPTLY TO LAST WEEK'S REPRESENTATION AND HAS NOT RPT NOT RECALLED ALL SPANISH F/VS FROM SA 5 AND SA 6. WE EXPECT THIS ACTION TO BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY.

G. US PUBLIC AND FISHING INDUSTRY EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO OVERFISHING BY FOREIGN FLEETS OFF US COASTS. THEY ARE NOT RPT NOT YET AWARE OF OUR ESTIMATES OF SPANISH

CATCH BUT COULD VERY WELL FIND OUT, AND SOME INDUSTRY PEOPLE ARE SUFFICIENTLY KNOWLEDGEABLE TO REACH SAME CONCLUSION ON THEIR OWN. IN THIS EVENT WE EXPECT REACTION TO BE EXTREMELY HOSTILE.

1. FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION WAS MADE ON HADDOCK NOTE (STATE 156670) DURING JULY 19 PRESENTATION: THE ZERO HADDOCK QUOTA REGULATION PERMITS A MAXIMUM BY-CATCH OF HADDOCK IN DIRECTED FISHERIES FOR OTHER SPECIES OF 5,000 POUNDS OR TEN PERCENT OF ENTIRE CATCH, WHICHEVER IS GREATER. PARA 3 OF NOTE SHOULD HAVE STATED THAT ALL SPANISH F/VS NOTED HAD BOTH MORE THAN 5,000 POUNDS AND MORE THAN TEN PERCENT HADDOCK ON BOARD.

2. EMBASSY MADRID REQUESTED FOLLOW UP WITH HIGHER LEVEL FONOFF AND FISHERIES OFFICIALS.

3. LOS DEL REQUESTED RE-INFORCE THESE REPRESENTATIONS THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACTS SPANISH DEL. US CHIEF ICNAF COMMISSIONER WILL BE IN CARACAS NEXT WEEK AND IS FAMILIAR WITH PROBLEM.

4. FYI. SINCE PREVIOUS REPRESENTATION SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO REPORT OUT FAVORABLY UNILATERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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200 MILE FISHERY JURISDICTION; ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS OF THREATS OF FLOOR ACTION WITHIN TWO WEEKS, OUR INFORMATION IS BILL WILL NOW BE REFERRED TO FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 45 TO 60 DAYS. HOWEVER, KNOWLEDGE OF SPANISH SITUATION MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO ENSURE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION WITH EXTREMELY ADVERSE RESULTS TO OUR LOS CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES. END FYI INGERSOLL

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